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REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-10 are pending and the Examiner asserts that Baarman (USPN 6885114) anticipates claims 1-7 and 9 and that Baarman as modified by Redmond (USPN 4246753) renders unpatentable Claim 10. Applicant respectfully disagrees but has amended the claims and provides the following traverse.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

"a clearance is formed between outer peripheries of the blades and an inner wall of the flow passage, and the clearance is set larger than a clearance between the outer peripheries of the blades and the cylindrical portion for forming a flow passage which does not receive a pressure loss attributed to the impeller"

Based on the above recitations, the toilet bowl flushing device allows the inflow of an amount of water sufficient to generate power to the impeller and, at the same time, allows a portion of water which flows in the flow passage to flow out through the clearance between the outer peripheries of the blades and hence, the pressure loss in the flow passage can be suppressed (see page 21, lns. 7 to 13 of the filed specification).

Accordingly, the present invention is substantially characterized in the formation of the flow passage which does not receive the pressure loss attributed to the impeller and hence, by applying the water supply apparatus of the present

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invention to the flushing of a toilet or the like, it is possible to prevent the lowering of the flushing or cleaning ability.

On the other hand, neither Baarman nor Redmond discloses the features now amended into Claim 1. In Baarman, water is injected to the impeller (paddles 68) from the nozzle 14 and therefore the water flow receives a considerable pressure loss attributable to the impeller. Similarly with Redmond, the water is injected to the impeller (vanes 30) from nozzles 48, 50 and hence, the water flow receives a considerable pressure loss attributable to the impeller.

In light of the foregoing, it is now believed that claims 1-10 are patentable over the art as the art fails to teach each recited limitation.

Moreover, regarding new claims 11-18, new Claim 11 recites the following limitations:

“an apparatus body disposed in a water supply flow passage;
a power generating unit removably disposed in the apparatus body, the power generating unit comprising:
a holder having an axial proximal end and an axial distal end;
said holder including an axially extending cylindrical portion and a cover, said cylindrical portion extending from said holder distal end towards said holder proximal end, and said cover extending from said holder proximal end towards said holder distal end, said cylindrical portion including an axial opening;
a rotating shaft rotatably supported at said axial distal end of said holder cylindrical portion in essentially a radial center of said cylindrical portion, said shaft axially extending towards said holder cover”

Baarman does not teach both an apparatus body and the holder as recited in new Claim 11. Furthermore, the proximal end of Baarman's shaft is not supported

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by the holder but rather cantilevered from the distal end of the shaft. See col. 6, lns. 42-52 of Baarman.

Moreover, Baarman fails to teach the following recitations of new Claim 11:

“said holder being removably mounted on a peripheral surface of an opening in the apparatus body so that: said cover is disposed exterior to said body and said cylindrical portion is disposed within said body and extends perpendicularly through a water flow path; and water flow is capable of flowing over an exterior surface of said cylindrical portion and into an interior of said cylindrical portion through said axial opening”

That is, there is no structure in Baarman which is removably mounted as recited in the claim or which includes a cylindrical portion disposed such that water flow is capable of flowing over an exterior surface of the cylindrical portion and into an interior of the cylindrical portion through an axial opening.

Accordingly, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The USPTO is hereby authorized to charge any fee(s) or fee(s) deficiency or credit any excess payment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,
JORDAN AND HAMBURG LLP

By 

C. Bruce Hamburg
Reg. No. 22,389
Attorney for Applicants

and,

By 

T. David Bomzer
Reg. No. 48,770
Attorney for Applicants

Jordan and Hamburg LLP
122 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10168
(212) 986-2340